

Financial Investigations Techniques Course to be Presented in Albuquerque on July 27-31, 2015

Albuquerque, NM — Demesia Padilla, CPA, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) announced that the Tax Fraud Investigations Division (TFID) of TRD will present a Financial Investigative Techniques Course (FITC), from Monday, July 27, to Friday, July 31, at the Albuquerque Museum of Arts and History.

This seminar will be limited to 50 participants, and it is recommended that those interested in participating reserve a seat as soon as possible. TRD presents this seminar free of charge and the participants are enrolled on a first come, first serve basis. The week-long FIS has been approved for 30 hours of CPE for Certified Public Accountants and Certified Fraud Examiners, 27 hours of CEU for Certified Law Enforcement Officers and 27 hours of CLE for Attorneys. Although primarily designed for Federal, State and Local law enforcement personnel, including white-collar crime investigators and auditors, this seminar is also a *must* for prosecutors.

The seminar is limited to no more than six participants from any one state agency. An alternative list will be compiled for future Financial Investigative Techniques Courses. This is the 10th time this course has been presented since TFID was created in 2003. TFID attempts to present FITC annually to the law enforcement community in an effort to share its expertise in the area of financial investigations.

The law enforcement community has responded to this unique and specialized training in a very positive manner. The number of criminal financial investigations has increased over the last few years, improving investigative focus on public corruption, embezzlement, computer crimes, money laundering, identity theft, procurement fraud, contractor fraud, conspiracy, drug trafficking, organized crime, racketeering, terrorism and other financial crimes.

The financial investigations approach and techniques taught in this seminar will allow all the participants to improve their skills in developing investigative financial profiles of targeted criminal networks. In today's world, most crimes have financial aspects. It is critical to be able to trace the movement of criminal finances.

The lead instructors for the seminar are TFID Director Alvan Romero, who is the Director of TFID and James Maes, who retired as the Deputy Director of TFID. Both of them are former IRS-Criminal Investigation Special Agents, Certified Public Accountants, Certified Fraud Examiners and Certified Financial Forensics experts. They have presented Financial Investigations Seminars for the past 34 years to more than 1,500 New Mexico law enforcement officers and prosecutors from federal, state, and local agencies.

Other guest presenters are Ray Martinez, TFID Computer Investigative Specialist (Computer Investigative Techniques), Jody R. Curran, a former state prosecutor and former director of the Medicaid Fraud & Elder Abuse Division of the New Mexico Attorney General's Office and Steven Blankinship, General Counsel, Office of the Governor and a former Assistant District Attorney, 3rd Judicial District (State Grand Jury, State Prosecutions, and Rules of Evidence), Aurora

Sanchez, Senior Vice President, Chief Operations Officer, 1st National Bank, Artesia (Financial Institutions as a Source of Financial Information), and Danette Sandoval, Criminal Analyst Supervisor, New Mexico State Police Criminal Investigations Section (Link Analysis), and Lilia Ruiz, TFID Deputy Director (Financial Interviewing Techniques, Use of Multi-Agency Task Forces, Report Writing), Leroy Chavez, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Federal Corruption Investigations).

To sign up, e-mail or place a phone call to Alvan Romero, TFID Director, at Alvan.Romero@state.nm.us or (505) 841-6544. To report tax fraud or tax evasion against the State of New Mexico, please call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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